

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

How can I protect myself?

Gonorrhea can be prevented through

- Abstinence (which means not having ANY vaginal, anal, or oral sex)
- Using condoms and dental dams the right way every time you have sex
- Limiting your partners (the safest option would be to have only one un-infected partner who only has sex with you)
- Avoiding alcohol or drug use because they may lead to risky sexual behavior
- Talking to your partner(s) about their sexual history



Gonorrhea in Pregnancy

Gonorrhea is strongly associated with ectopic (tubal) pregnancy, infertility, increased risk for miscarriage, preterm delivery, and premature rupture of the amniotic sac, which increases the fetus's risk for infection and preterm delivery. During delivery, babies are exposed to these bacteria and risk developing blindness, joint infection, and life-threatening blood infections.

KEEP CALM and GET TESTED

Yearly screenings for Gonorrhea are recommended if you are:

- A man who has sex with other men
- A sexually active woman age 25 or younger
- A sexually active woman over age 25 with a risk factor—for example, having a new sexual partner or multiple sex partners
- A pregnant woman

Have an open and honest talk with your healthcare provider so they can evaluate the testing you may need.

For more information about Gonorrhea

Call your health care provider, your local health department or contact



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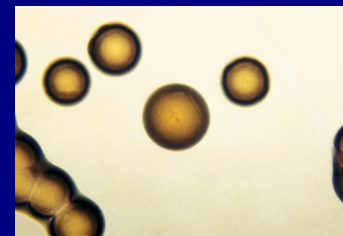
www.health.mo.gov
www.cdc.gov/std

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Section for Disease Prevention
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570

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Gonorrhea



Know the facts!

What is Gonorrhea?

Gonorrhea is a common bacterial sexually transmitted disease (STD). It can cause infections in the genitals, rectum, throat, and sometimes the eyes.

How is Gonorrhea spread?

It is spread through contact with the penis, mouth, vagina, or anus of a person infected with gonorrhea. This means it is passed from person to person through oral, vaginal, or anal sex. It can also be spread from mother to child during the birthing process.

Among sexually active people, gonorrhea is found more often in those between the ages of 15-24.

Washing your genitals, urinating, or douching after sex will not protect you from getting gonorrhea.



Gonorrhea... anyone who is sexually active can get it.

Symptoms of Gonorrhea

Many people, both male and female, with gonorrhea have no symptoms at all.

For women who do experience symptoms, an untreated gonorrhea infection may cause:

- Abnormal vaginal discharge
- Painful or burning sensation during urination (peeing)
- Vaginal bleeding between periods

For men who do experience symptoms, an untreated gonorrhea infection may cause:

- Burning sensation when urinating
- A white, yellow, or green discharge from the penis
- Painful or swollen testicles

A person with an untreated gonorrhea anal infection may not experience any symptoms. However, both males and females who do have symptoms may experience a discharge from the anus, anal itching, soreness, or bleeding from the anus and painful bowel movements.

Even if you had Gonorrhea in the past and you were successfully cured, you can still get it again.

How can I find out if I am infected?

Your healthcare provider, and many clinics, can test for gonorrhea by taking a urine sample or sometimes a swab sample of the infected area.

Make sure you discuss with them any questions you may have about the testing or the results.

Treatment

Because gonorrhea is a bacterial infection it can usually be treated easily with antibiotics. However, some types of Gonorrhea are harder to treat. Your healthcare provider will know the best treatment. Make sure you finish all medications as prescribed.

What if I don't get treated?

- It could cause permanent damage to the reproductive system of women
- It could cause a painful condition in the testicles and possibly cause a man to be unable to father a child
- It can spread to the blood or joints and could be life-threatening

Your sex partner(s) need to be treated too. Otherwise, you could become infected again. Also, ask your healthcare provider how long after treatment you need to wait to have sex, so you do not pass the infection to anyone else.